

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you continue to form your Administration and craft your agenda, we strongly urge you to address the need for drinking water and adequate sanitation worldwide. The ongoing crises in Darfur, Zimbabwe, and other countries are part of a global water emergency that leaves nearly one billion people without safe drinking water and 2.5 billion people without access to basic sanitation. Without safe water, nations have little hope for long-term economic productivity, women's empowerment, and environmental protection. In the coming decades, climate change will intensify this crisis.

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the United States and 185 other countries agreed to the goal of cutting in half by 2015 the percentage of people without access to safe water and basic sanitation. We have passed the halfway point to this date, yet a recent report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, *Global Water Futures: A Roadmap for Future U.S. Policy*, concluded that the U.S. has inadequately invested in diplomatic and development efforts.

A framework for U.S. Government response is already in place through The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005. This bipartisan legislation, linked with appropriations of \$300 million in FY2008, has begun to extend affordable and sustainable water and basic sanitation to poor communities in greatest need. U.S. involvement has galvanized private-citizen contributions and host-governments' investments in the sector.

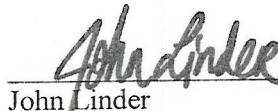
Executive Branch leadership and vision is needed to complement Congressional action. The year 2009 provides a pivotal moment for the United States to offer global leadership and restore our place as a bold and trusted leader. All humanity has a right to this most precious resource; with your support, the U.S. can move to the forefront in addressing perhaps the key human development challenge of the 21st century.

We stand united and ready to work with you.

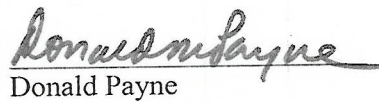
Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



John Linder
Member of Congress



Donald Payne
Member of Congress

George Miller
Member of Congress

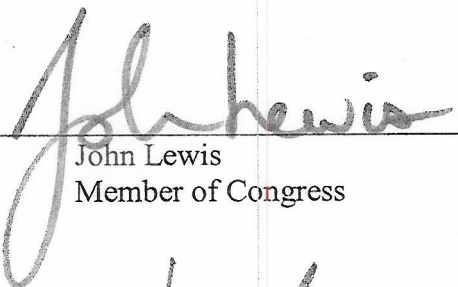
Edward Markey
Member of Congress

Henry Waxman
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

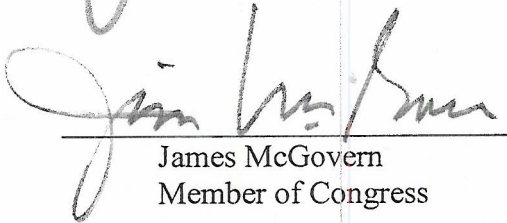
Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

Bob Filner
Member of Congress



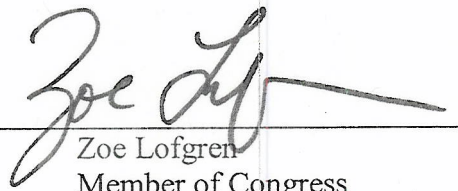
John Lewis
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

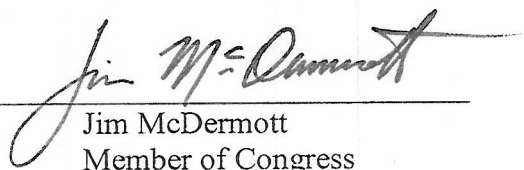


James McGovern
Member of Congress

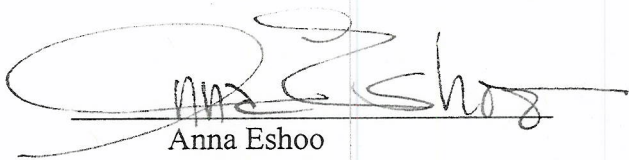
James Moran
Member of Congress



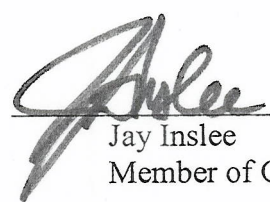
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

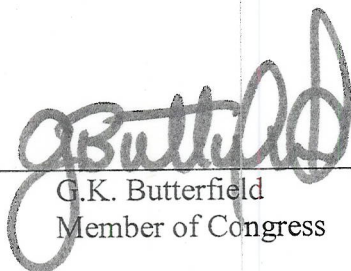


Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee
Member of Congress

Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



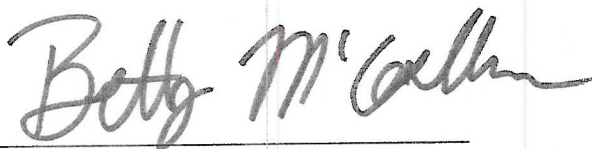
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

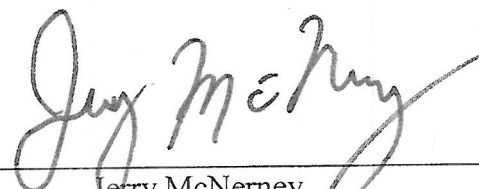
Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

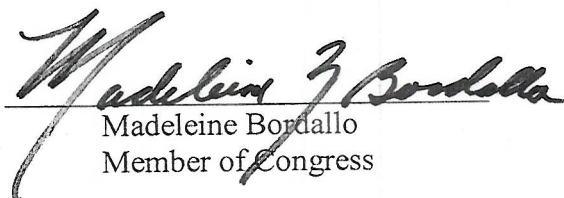
Jose Serrano
Member of Congress

Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

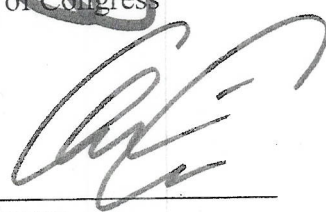
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress



Eric Massa
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress

Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress